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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-03 NIC-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /142 W
---------- 089945
P 261335Z MAR 74
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2574

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0199

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET
SUBJECT: ASMARA SIT REP

1. ON MARCH 26 MAJOR GENERAL GASHAW KEBEDE, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, AND ATO BELEY BEYENE, ACCOUNTS COMPTROLLERS FOR THE POLICE, WERE ARRESTED BY POLICE ELEMENTS. A DEMAND HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL REQUIRING THAT THEY ACCOUNT FOR MONEY PAID INTO THE POLICEMEN'S WELFARE FUND. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS ACTION IS CONNECTED TO ANNOUNCE-MENT MADE FROM PALACE IN ADDIS LAST NIGHT REGARDING POSSIBLE MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS BY OFFICIALS.

2. THE ASMARA AIRPORT IS CLOSED FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING FLIGHTS. POLICE ENLISTED MEN INDICATE THAT THIS IS AT THEIR INSISTENCE. HOWEMER, EAL OFFICIALS DO NOT CITE THE SOURCE FOR ORDERS TO STOP FLIGHTS. A DC-3 DEPARTED ASMARA ABOUT 1230 ENROUTE TO ADDIS. CONGEN ACCOMPANIED BY MAAG AND KAGNEW COMMANDER VISITED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIR FIELDS ABOUT 1:00 P.M. AND SITUATION APPEARED NORMAL.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT ALL AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE BEING ARRESTED. HOWEVER, COLONEL STICKNEY, MAAG, MET
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WITH COLONEL ATLAW MESHESHA, IEAF, THIS MORNING. WITH THE

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EXCEPTION OF A BRIEF FLURRY OF ACTIVITY THIS MORNING, POLICE
AND MILITARY PERSONNEL APPEAR TO BE PERFORMING THEIR NORMAL
FUNCTIONS. RUMORS AND ANXIETY ARE RAMPANT IN ASMARA REGARDING
LOCAL SITUATION AND LARGER EVENTS IN ADDIS.
PERRY

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ASMARA00199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740064-1122
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740316/aaaaaokl.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASMARA SIT REP
TAGS: PINS, ET
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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